GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants - Commercial Tax Department - Surprise check conducted on the Integrated Check Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor district on 21.12.2013 - Common disciplinary proceedings under Rule 24 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 against Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO (Retd.) and others – Sri C. Venugopal appointed as Inquiry Officer – Inquiry not completed – Disciplinary action initiated against Inquiry Officer - Articles of charges framed - Written statement of defence submitted - Examined - Appointment of Jt.Commissioner (ST), Ananthapuramu as Inquiry Officer for conducting regular inquiry against Sri C.Venugopal, Asst.Commissioner (CT) (re-designated as Dy.Commissioner (ST) (now retired) - Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-VI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 189 Dated: 04-03-2025

Read the following:-

1. From the DG, ACB, Lr.Rc.No.47/DE-S-TCT/2013, dt.22.06.2016.
2. G.O.Ms.No.323, Revenue (Vig-II) Dept., dt.07.09.2015.
3. G.O.Rt.Nos.800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814 and 815, Revenue (Vig-II) Dept., dt.07.09.2015.
4. G.O.Rt.No.99, Revenue (Vig-II) Dept., dt.12.01.2018.
5. G.O.Rt.No.100, Revenue (Vig-II) Dept., dt.12.01.2018.
6. From the CCTs Ref.No.V3/926/2013, dt.02.05.2019.
7. G.O.Rt.No.475, Revenue (Vig-II) Dept., dt.28.06.2022.
8. Govt.Memo.No.16199/Vig.II(3)/2015-Vig.II, dt.28.06.2020.
9. From the CC (ST) (FAC), Lr.Ref.No.V3/926/2013, dt.12.09.2022.
10. G.O.Ms.No.755, Revenue (Vig.I) Dept., dt.19.12.2022.
11. From the CCST, Lr.Ref.No.V3/926/2013, dt.27.03.2023.
12. Govt.Memo.Nos.329734/16199/Vig.II(3)/2015-1 & 2, dt.08.09.2023.
13. From the CCST's Lr.Ref.No.V2/926/2013, dt.24.01.2024.
14. From Sri C.Venugopal, DC (ST) Retd), representation dt.17.08.2024.

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ORDER:

Whereas, the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau in the reference 1st read above has reported that based on credible information regarding corrupt practices and the collection of bribes by staff at the Integrated Check Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor dist., a surprise check was conducted on 21.12.2013. This surprise check revealed irregularities in the counters maintained by the Commercial Tax Dept., and other Depts. The DG, ACB has recommended departmental action against 16 officers/staff members (i.e., 10 regular staff and 1 DEO of Revenue Commercial Tax Dept., 3 from Prohibition & Excise Dept., and 2 from Transport, Roads & Buildings Dept.) for violating Conduct Rules. The DG, ACB has recommended for terminating from the post of DEO in respect of Suspected Officer-16 Sri M.Venugopal Reddy and the CCST was requested to take action for his termination.

2. Whereas, in the reference 2nd read above, Govt., issued orders initiating common disciplinary proceedings against all 15 staff officers i.e., 1) Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO (SO-1), 2) Sri Gangala Suresh Babu, ACTO (SO-2), 3) Sri Arani Gopal, ACTO (SO-3), 4) Sri Nagarajan Palani, Sr.Asst.& FAC ACTO (SO-4), 5) Sri B.Krishna Murthy, Sr.Asst.(SO-5), 6) Sri Dudde Prabhakar, Jr.Asst.(Jr.CTI) (SO-6), 7) Sri Syed Abdul Gafaar, Office Subordinate (SO-7), 8) Sri Maddileti Muniraja, Office Subordinate (SO-8), 9) Sri K.S.Narendra Kumar, Jr.Asst.(SO-9), 10) Sri Maredupalli Ananda Naidu, Hamali (SO-10), C.T.Dept., 11) Sri Vasagiri Madhusudhan, Motor Vehicle

(P.T.O)

Inspector (SO-11), 12) Sri Bepari Nanne Saheb, Head Constable (SO-12), Transport Dept., 13) Sri Gudluru Prasanth Vijay Kumar, Inspector (SO-13), 14) Sri Golla Sandeep, Sub-Inspector (SO-14), 15) Sri A.Ravi Kumar, Head Constable (SO-15), Prohibition & Excise Dept., respectively under Sub-Rules (1) and (2) of Rule 24 of the A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991.

3. Whereas, in the references 3rd read above, Govt., issued orders framing articles of charges against the 15 (fifteen) Charged Officers. Whereas, in the references 4th and 5th read above, Govt., issued orders appointing Sri C.Venugopal, Assistant Commissioner, O/o.DC (CT), Chittoor and Smt.P.Padmavati, CTO-I Circle, Chittoor as Inquiring Authority and Presenting Officer respectively for conducting regular inquiry into the charges framed against the officers of Integrated Check Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor district.

4. Whereas, in the reference 6th read above, the Chief Commissioner of State Tax has furnished the inquiry report submitted by Sri C. Venugopal and requested the Govt., to take appropriate action. It was observed that the report only covered the (10) C.T. Dept., personnel. No report was submitted for the remaining (5) Charged Officers from the Transport and Prohibition & Excise Departments and the reasons for not conducting an inquiry into the charges against them were unclear.

5. Government have examined and in the reference 8th read above, the CCST was requested to furnish the draft Article of Charges to initiate disciplinary action against Sri C.Venugopal, Asst.Commissioner, O/o. Dy. Commissioner, Chittoor (now retired) for disobeying the orders of the Government and not completed the inquiry within stipulated period and showed grave dereliction of duty.

6. Whereas, in the reference 9th read above, the CCST has furnished the draft articles of charges and in the reference 10th read above, Government have initiated disciplinary proceedings against Sri C. Venugopal, DC (ST) (Retd) under Rule 20 of the A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991, r/w.Rule 9 of the A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

7. Whereas, in the reference 14th read above, the Charged Officer Sri C.Venugopal, Dy.Commissioner (ST) has requested the Govt., to consider his case sympathetically and withdrawn the charges framed against him. After detailed examination of the defence of the Charged Officer, it is submitted that as an Inquiry Officer, he was responsible for inquiring into all charged officers under the common disciplinary proceedings as per the Govt. Order. It was his duty to seek clarification or follow up with his superiors if any documents/information for the remaining five officers were not provided. His assumption of limited responsibility, without seeking clarification, shows negligence. His lack of timely follow-up and passive action indicates negligence in performing his duties, which cannot be justified solely by the absence of malafide intent. The defense provided by Sri C.Venugopal fails to convincingly address the core issue of negligence in completing the inquiry for all charged officers. His passive approach, lack of proactive communication, and failure to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to him reflect a violation of Rule 3 (1), (2), and (4) of the A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

8. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (2) of rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991, the Government hereby appoints the Joint Commissioner (State Tax), Ananthapuramu as the Inquiry Officer for conducting regular inquiry against Sri C.Venugopal, Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax) (re-designated as Deputy Commissioner

(Contd.,3)

(State Tax) (now retired). The Inquiry Officer is directed to submit his inquiry report, in duplicate, with his attestation, within two months. If the inquiry is not completed with this period, the Inquiry Officer shall obtain permission for an extension of time to complete the inquiry, explaining reasons as per the guidelines issued in G.O.Ms.No.91, General Administration Department, dt.12.09.2022 and further action will be taken against him in terms of circular instructions issued in Govt.Memo.No.2449208-REV01-CCST/2/2024-Vig-VI, dt.04.06.2024.

9. Copies of the Articles of Charges framed against the Charged Officer along with the served copy and written statement of defence of the Charged Officer and related documents, are enclosed herewith.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PEEYUSH KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMNET

To

The Joint Commissioner (State Tax), Ananthapuramu, the Inquiry Officer (through the Chief Commissioner of State Tax, A.P., Kunchanapalli, Guntur district) by mail to JC Ananthapuram and he is directed to conduct Inquiry immediately without waiting for communication from the CCST)

The Charged Officer Sri C. Venugopal, Asst.Commissioner (CT) (re-designated as Dy. Commissioner (ST) (through the Chief Commissioner of State Tax, A.P., Kunchanapalli, Guntur district)

The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur district

The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, A.P.Vigilance Commission, Secretariat, Velagapudi

The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Pandit Nehru Bus Station, 2nd Floor, NTR district, A.P., Vijayawada

SF/SCs.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER